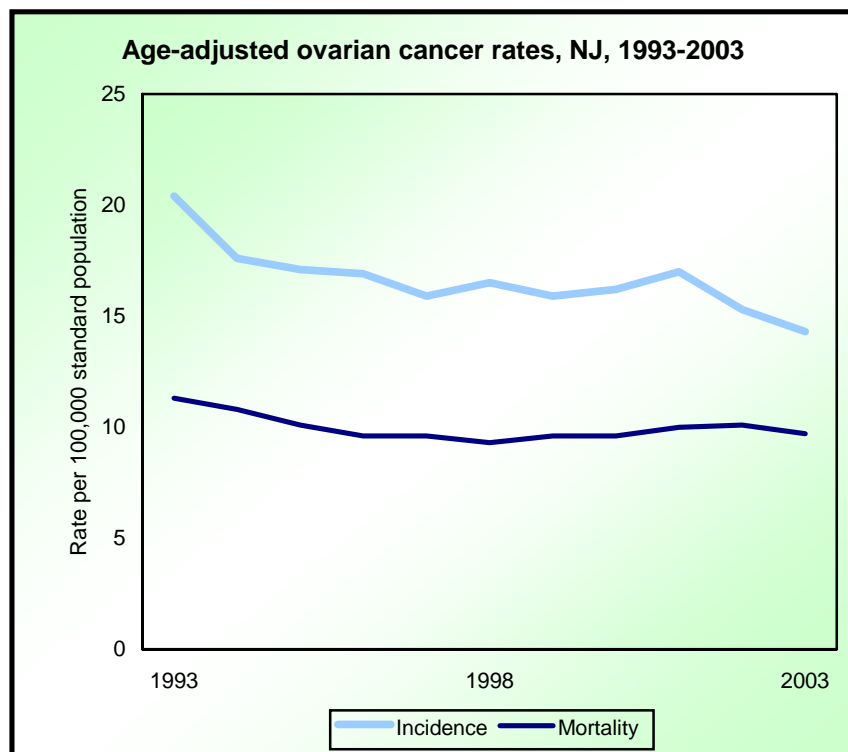


Ovarian Cancer

- Each year in New Jersey, nearly 800 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and more than 500 die from this disease.



- The ovarian cancer incidence rate decreased 30% between 1993 and 2003. The decline was experienced by every age group. However, part of the decrease since 2001 may be due to a change in the coding rules used nationally to classify ovarian cancers.
- Incidence rates decreased for both white and black women between 1993 and 2003. In 2003, the age-adjusted ovarian cancer incidence rate was 15.0 for whites and 10.6 for blacks per 100,000 standard population.
- The ovarian cancer mortality rate decreased slightly between 1993 and 2003.
- In 2003, the age-adjusted ovarian cancer mortality rate was 10.3 for whites and 7.5 for blacks per 100,000 standard population.
- Some of the known risk factors for ovarian cancer include older age, never bearing children, a high number of lifetime menstrual periods, use of a fertility drug or infertility, family history of ovarian or breast cancer, estrogen replacement therapy (without progesterone), and hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer, however these risk factors do not account for all ovarian cancers.
- A healthy diet, oral contraceptive use, pregnancy and breastfeeding, tubal ligation, and hysterectomy have been associated with decreased ovarian cancer risk.

- Ovarian cancer is difficult to detect because its symptoms are vague (abdominal swelling, unusual vaginal bleeding, pelvic pressure, back or leg pain, and problems such as gas, bloating, long-term stomach pain, or indigestion) and early ovarian tumors are difficult to find via physical examination. Because of the difficulty in detection, most ovarian cancers are not detected at an early stage. Diagnostic tests such as ultrasound and CA125 (a tumor marker) blood test may be used on high-risk women.
- Treatment for ovarian cancer may include surgery, chemotherapy, and/or radiation therapy.

For more information about ovarian cancer from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services: www.nj.gov/health/cancer

Sources:

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, [Cancer Epidemiology Services](#):
[NJ State Cancer Registry](#) 1993- 2003 Incidence Data

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, [Center for Health Statistics](#):
New Jersey 1993-2003 Death Certificate Data Files and [NJSHAD Query System](#)

American Cancer Society:
[Overview: Ovarian Cancer](#)
[Cancer Facts And Figures 2006](#)

[National Ovarian Cancer Coalition](#)



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